

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR GR IR

SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM GOODWILL
VISIT TO TEHRAN

1. GREEK FORMIN BITSIOS RETURNED EVENING JUNE
21 FROM THREE DAY GOODWILL VISIT TO TEHRAN. IN
REMARKS TO PRESS UPON HIS RETURN TO ATHENS, BITSIOS
ASSERTED THAT "THE ROAD IS NOW OPEN FOR COLLABORATION
AND PARTICIPATION OF GREEK TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL
VENTURES IN THE GREAT EFFORT RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF IRAN." BITSIOS ALSO COMMENTED THAT IT WAS THE
FIRST VISIT OF A GREEK FORMIN TO IRAN "SINCE 2,000
YEARS AGO".

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY REPORTED THAT IN
COURSE OF A PRIVATE DISCUSSION BITSIOS HELD WITH
IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER HOVEIDA, THE TWO OFFICIALS
DISCUSSED "INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO BOTH
COUNTRIES AS WELL AS BILATERAL MEASURES." ATHENS
NEWS AGENCY MADE POINT THAT "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" IN
TEHRAN UNDERLINED FACT THAT MEETING OF IRANIAN
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PRIME MINISTER WITH BITSIOS WAS NOT SET FORTH IN

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF VISIT AND THUS SHOULD BE
INTERPRETED AS "DEMONSTRATION OF IRANIAN PRIME
MINISTERS FAVORABLE INTENTIONS TOWARD GREECE AND AS
INDICATION OF GOOD CLIMATE EXISTING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES".

3. COMMENT: PRESS COMMENT SO FAR AT LEAST HAS MADE
NO REFERENCE TO IRANIAN VIEWS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION
OR WHETHER THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED DURING BITSIOS
VISIT. ANOTHER ISSUE ON WHICH IRANIAN VIEWS RANKLE MANY
GREEKS IS SHAH'S ALLEGED SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT
FOR FORMER KING CONSTANTINE. THIS SUBJECT ALSO HAS NOT
BEEN MENTIONED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE BITSIOS VISIT
TO TEHRAN.

4. AMB KUBISCH SAW BITSIOS AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION
LAST NIGHT AND HAD A PRIVATE WORD WITH HIM ABOUT HIS TRIP.
BITSIOS SAID "NOTHING SPECTACULAR" HAD TAKEN PLACE NOR
HAD HE EXPECTED IT TO. HE INDICATED THAT HE MADE THE TRIP
PRIMARILY AS PART OF HIS EFFORT TO REINVIGORATE GREECE'S
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL
MATTERS WITH GOI OFFICIALS. THIS WAS ALSO THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE IRANIAN CHARGE IN ATHENS WHO ADDED THAT
SINCE THE GOG WAS WELL AWARE OF IRAN'S "UNDERSTANDIN" FOR
THE TURKISH POSITION ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO CYPRUS, HE
DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT BITSIOS WASTED MUCH TIME IN TEHRAN
ON CYPRUS OR SIMILAR "POLITICAL" QUESTIONS.
KUBISCH

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